Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Sunday 15 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Monday 16 Jan 2023

Forecast Issued on Saturday 14 Jan 2023 at 11:50

Confidence: High confidence for a wintry, cold spell of weather with snow showers and overnight frosts, northerly winds will strengthen at times to enhance the windchill. Lower confidence for a change to milder conditions by the end of the week. Also lower confidence in the timing of snow and sleet clearing south on Sunday morning.

Headline for Sunday 15 Jan 2023: Early snow showers will clear south, bright and dry for much of the day, winds easing.

Mountain weather hazards on Sunday 15 Jan 2023

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** No Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Partly cloudy (night)	Light snow
Precipitation probability							
60%	60%	60%	10%	10%	10%	20%	60%

Forecast for Sunday 15 Jan 2023

Weather: A band of wintry weather will spread south during the early hours with blizzard conditions at times on the fells, heavy snow and severe gales are likely with a severe wind chill. Conditions will improve soon after daylight with winds easing but still remaining fresh, but becoming mainly dry with some bright or sunny weather for much of the rest of the day. Cloud thickening during the afternoon with further snow showers likely in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% improving to 90% as wintry precipitation clears south, decreasing to 60% in the evening with further showers.

Low cloud and visibility: For the early part of the day overcast layers of cloud above 300m can be expected but cloud will thin and lift in the morning with mostly clear tops from lunchtime. Visibility will be very poor in the early morning but becoming excellent by lunchtime with far reaching views likely. Further low cloud may form later, perhaps affecting mainly southern fell tops.

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Forecast for Sunday 15 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	50/65 SW	44/59 W	28/36 NW	28/35 NW	20/26 NW	15/20 W	12/17 W	11/16 SE	13/17 N
600	42/59 SW	37/52 W	21/31 NW	18/27 NW	15/21 NW	11/17 W	9/14 W	10/16 SE	9/13 N
300	18/47 SW	17/43 W	11/27 NW	9/25 NW	8/19 NW	5/15 W	4/12 W	5/12 SE	5/12 N
Valley	21/47 SW	21/45 W	12/26 NW	12/27 NW	9/19 NW	6/15 W	6/14 NW	8/15 N	8/14 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-14	-2/-12	-2/-10	-3/-11	-3/-10	-3/-9	-3/-9	-4/-9	-5/-11
600	-1/-10	-0/-9	0/-7	-1/-7	-0/-6	-0/-5	-2/-6	-2/-7	-3/-8
300	2/-4	1/-4	2/-2	1/-3	2/-1	2/-1	0/-2	0/-2	-1/-3
Valley	4/-1	4/-1	5/1	4/0	5/2	5/2	3/1	3/-0	2/-1
Freezing Level*	400m	500m	600m	500m	400m	400m	300m	300m	200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Extreme wintry conditions early in the day on Sunday but with winds easing during the morning an improvement is expected. Bitterly cold in the strong winds and even as winds ease notice freezing level falling towards the surface with any precipitation likely to be sleet or snow. Higher roads may become impassable overnight.

Forecast for Monday 16 Jan 2023

Weather: The risk of a few snow showers in the early hours but otherwise mainly dry with a lot of bright weather and sunny spells. Perhaps more in the way of cloud later in the afternoon and a few snow flurries down to low levels. Remaining very cold with a considerable windchill.

Maximum wind: Northwesterly 10-15mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90%, perhaps some patches of lower cloud in the morning.

Low cloud and visibility: A few patches of cloud above 700m during the morning otherwise cloud bases above all the fell tops. Visibility may be moderate to start the day but becoming very good thought daylight hours, perhaps dipping in any snow flurries temporarily.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 2 rising to plus 2 Celsius.
At 800m: Minus 6 Celsius.
Freezing level: 100-200m

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Saturday 14 January Location: Helvellyn summit at 13:10

Heavy rain overnight turned more showery in the morning with upland gales building in intensity throughout the day. Fresh snowfall over high ground and a lowering of the freezing level saw snow settling down to roughly 600m by the end of the day.

All of the snow encountered today was soft and quite wet, however, with lower freezing levels forecast in the coming days, it will become firm and icy. Much of today's precipitation fell in the form of graupel (soft hail) which was accumulating in quite large quantities at the bottom of gullies and similar catching features.

Snow distribution is varied, ranging from quite little over high and exposed ground (such as Helvellyn's summit plateau), to knee-deep drifts in sheltered areas and slopes in the lee of the wind.

The depth of the snow generally increases with height, however, the greatest accumulations are found on steep north and east-facing slopes above 800m.

Soft and unstable cornices are also present around corrie rims in these locations and should be given a wide berth. Windslab is also beginning to form on ridge flanks and steep scarp slopes.

Striding and Swirral edge are in full winter condition and a steep bank of snow exists on their exit slopes. Any overnight precipitation is likely to fall as snow down to mid-elevations therefore, anyone heading out tomorrow should be prepared for more snow and ice than described here.

The windchill (feels-like) temperature on the top of Helvellyn today was around -12ºC and anyone standing still even for short periods of time would get very cold very quickly.

Full winter clothing (warm and waterproof) including hats and gloves, a map, compass, and headtorch are all essential. For anyone considering steep and exposed routes above the snowline, an ice axe and crampons/microspikes are also essential. Goggles are also extremely useful/essential for route-finding and navigating safely in windy conditions

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